



The Museum of Modern Belarusian Statehood not only takes us to the past, but also makes us think about the present

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Alcopack company supplies with products the flagships of the food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries of 15 countries

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Belagro 2023: Yevgeny Simonchik, Head of the Service Group, and Andrei Sirotenko, Deputy General Director for Export of AMKODOR-Agro Trading House

Belagro 2023: scale and spectacularity

On June 6th, a significant agricultural event of the country started — the Belarusian Agro-Industrial Week, within the framework of which the *Belagro 2023* international specialised exhibition is being held. At the new site of the exhibition centre of the China-Belarus Industrial Park Great Stone one can get acquainted with the advanced trends in the development of crop production, animal husbandry and poultry farming, modern technologies for processing, packaging and storage of products, as well as a variety of agricultural machinery.

The forum traditionally brings together not only Belarusian farmers and workers in the food and processing industry, but also their foreign colleagues and partners. 450 companies from Belarus, Russia, China, Pakistan, Türkiye, Vietnam, Germany, Italy, India, Palestine take part in the 33rd edition of the *Belagro 2023* exhibition. The guests are delegations from Zimbabwe, Egypt, Iran, Kenya, Cuba, Mongolia, Syria, Uganda, South Africa.

In general, the exposition area of the exhibition is more than 28,000 square metres, where more than 240 pieces of equipment are located.



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Do not let a wedge be driven between the CIS countries

The President of Belarus made a special emphasis on the key threats to the Commonwealth of Independent States during the meeting with participants of the 52nd session of the CIS Council of Heads of Security Agencies and Special Services

Speaking about the situation in Ukraine, the Head of State stressed,

“I absolutely agree with President Putin’s words that it was not us who started this war. It started long before 2014. With that coup that took place then, we saw where Ukraine was led. We saw who was in the forefront.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that the Ukrainian authorities had many options to use to ensure their people live peacefully in all of Ukraine.

“But neither former Presidents Yanukovich, Poroshenko, nor the current President Zelensky took advantage of any of them. Why didn’t they have a try? Did they want a war? No, they didn’t. They were just pushed to it by those who found their weak points to put pressure,” the Head of the Belarusian State said.

The President expressed confidence that if it had not begun just over a year ago, it would have started tomorrow, but with worse conditions for Russia and Belarus, “We saw this coming. The only mistake we made, probably, is that we didn’t resolve this issue in 2014-2015, when Ukraine had no army, no combat readiness... We wanted to settle it peacefully. They, however, used this time to develop combat-ready armed forces.”

This intention had already been confirmed by the participants of the then peace talks, including former French President Francois Hollande, “They frankly admitted that they were doing everything to prepare Ukraine for war with Russia.”

Addressing representatives of the security and special services of the CIS countries, Aleksandr Lukashenko highlighted, “We should all calm down. I just ask you to

influence the policy inside your countries so that we do not separate. This can be very dangerous... Nobody needs us, except for the post-Soviet space that exists today after the collapse of the Soviet Union. In fact, we speak the same language, we have a single economy, we have common markets, industrial co-operation, and so on. Why should we break this common market?”

The President noted that the rapprochement of countries in the post-Soviet space brings them a significant economic effect. The Head of State drew attention to the fact that the West is constantly trying to bring Belarus and Russia to their knees, but this only leads to the opposite effect.

any reason, acts like an elephant in the room. But this is up to them.”

The already powerful political and economic pressure by the United States and the EU is ever increasing, and blatant attempts to limit the scientific and technological development of the CIS countries continue, the Head of State noted. At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko outlined the growing contradictions between the United States and the European Union, “The United States is not only trying to use the European Union in the war in Ukraine (they have already robbed them blind) but also in their confrontation against China. The trade between China and the European Union is colossal. The



The Head of State also added,

“The military-political situation around the CIS is aggravating and will continue to escalate. We need to understand that the big players are trying to pull us, Russia, Belarus, the Central Asian states, apart, using carrots and sticks. We, people, must not allow this. This is my firm belief. I feel it in my gut. After all, I have been working as President for some time now. We see the growing militarisation of the NATO countries and the unprecedented concentration of troops near our common territory, incitement of religious, armed conflicts.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled the events in Poland, which dropped its old weapons to Ukraine, and now equips its army with modern American equipment, “The United States has designated Poland as the main pillar of NATO in Europe. But, fortunately (I am not rejoicing at this, but there is nothing to be sad about), they are creating problems not only on our borders but are picking up a fight with Germany. In my opinion, Poland, without

EU are pragmatists, and they understand that the severance of relations between the European Union and China, which the United States is pushing for, will lead to even more sad economic consequences in Europe.”

At a meeting with the heads of special services, Aleksandr Lukashenko also named the main security threats for the CIS countries.

“Today one of the key threats is information and psychological warfare and fake information. The purpose of such actions is to undermine the authority of our states in the international arena. And not only that. Dangerous, aggressive actions are sometimes related to fakes.”

The information and psychological warfare embraces everything: economy, scientific and technical co-operation, internet, and even armed provocations,” the President stressed.

The Head of State noted that the information monopoly of the West, in particular the control over the internet, the main social networks and international media, only serves this matter, “They protect this

monopoly, as well as their manic desire to prevent a multipolar world, by the slogan of this fight for democracy. There is nothing behind their ‘democracy’. There is no democracy there. Thank God, we have already understood that. We have seen how they act in the United States and what they are trying to make us do. Using this slogan, the Western elites will be working to disrupt our integration processes, force our countries to abandon partnerships and artificially create points of tension in and around the CIS.”

“The most eloquent example of this is the current situation in Ukraine, which is used as a bargaining chip in geopolitical games today,” the President said.

“Intelligence information which we receive, including thanks to the partnership between the intelligence agencies, shows that the abovementioned threats will continue increasing in the foreseeable future. If some of us think that we will be able to sit it out, we will not. Recent events in Kazakhstan serve as a blatant example. There’s always an internal element. Such things do not come from nothing. There is always some internal element. There are forces, interested in destabilisation, returning to power, and so on. Foreign secret services quickly create a bunch of these elements around this internal one to destabilise the situation in our countries. Kazakhstan is a vivid example of it and of our strength when we act united. It may seem we did not do much, but they saw our determination and backed off. That is why we need to stand by each other. As far as Belarus is concerned, Poland, Lithuania and, unfortunately, Ukraine provide a training ground for members of illegal armed groups; these countries are trying to create dormant extremist cells in our country. We have fresh evidence of this,” the Belarusian leader observed.

The Head of State recalled the recent joint operations with Russia, that resulted in the seizure of explosives and hence the prevention of terrorist attacks in Belarus.

“This fact shows that they won’t leave us alone. Militants are being trained in Ukraine; they are honing their skills on the frontline. Some of self-exiled Belarusians die there. Such units are being trained in Poland, Lithuania and Czechia to be sent to Belarus at the right moment. And this is no longer 2020, when girls went to rallies wearing short white skirts and holding flowers. People are ready to come here with weapons. Therefore, we have to pay a lot of attention to protecting our borders,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

The President noted that it is no longer enough for the self-exiled opposition to make statements for the media to get funding from Western curators. Now they demand decisive action. In other words, money in exchange for terrorist attacks, an armed fight.

“In other words, they are preparing a violent scenario to topple the government. We see this. We will not allow this to happen. You are well aware that you are also facing these threats to some extent. Do not allow provocations and pressure. Any actions and decisions of the CIS states that do not meet the expectations of the West can become a pretext for accusations and sanctions,” Aleksandr Lukashenko stated.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, has signed a decree 'On Improving the Efficiency of the Healthcare System' on June 2nd

Belarusian medicine is under close control

Following the government conference held on May 23rd, 2023, the Head of State gave specific instructions to streamline healthcare institutions at all levels, to create conditions for the provision of high-quality medical care to the population and to pay special attention to rural communities.

The chairmen of local authorities shall be personally responsible for the sanitary and engineering status of buildings and structures of healthcare institutions.

The Healthcare Ministry shall revise the regulatory legal acts regulating medical and pharmaceutical activities, the provision of paid medical services, taking into account law enforcement practice.

Under the document, medical institutions need to adjust medical examination procedures, and to reduce the waiting period for high-tech surgical interventions and diagnostic tests.

Additional measures are needed to address the problem of shortage of medics, especially in

rural areas, improve the quality of their training and retention in the workplace.

The procedure for payroll calculation for medical workers will be revised with an increase in the share of the official salary.

Instructions have been given to ensure the development of new medicines, to increase production and expand the range of domestic medicines, and to im-

prove the management system of the pharmaceutical industry.

The interdepartmental working group, set up by the President, will continue auditing the healthcare system until the end of the year, including the monitoring of solutions to the identified problematic issues.

Reports on the results of this work will be submitted to the Head of State in January 2024.



BELTA

A recent meeting with the President on topical health issues caused a great public outcry. Indeed, the healthcare system has been successfully built in Belarus as a whole. Belarusian doctors adequately coped with the COVID-19 pandemic. Belarus looks worthy in various international rankings. Our flagships are republican scientific and practical centres, large clinics, equipped at a state-of-the-art level. But this is not a reason to turn a blind eye to problems and shortcomings. And there are still a lot of them, as evidenced by complaints from the population. On behalf of the Head of State, an independent interdepartmental working group was formed for a large-scale check of the state of affairs in the industry. Specialists travelled all over the country and identified many problems: huge queues for some operations, unavailability of highly qualified assistance, idleness of expensive equipment, gaps in personnel training, and even non-compliance with elementary sanitary rules. At the meeting, Aleksandr Lukashenko reacted extremely harshly to all the facts presented and instructed to eliminate all shortcomings and restore iron rule as soon as possible:

"As a result, a week later I have a document on my desk — either a decree, or a protocol of instructions. Gather a transcript of everything that was said. Everything must be written down. January 1st next year is deadline. All the shortcomings that have been discussed here must be eliminated by January 1st. The President must sign a document obliging everyone — from the government to the village first-aid station," Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed, summing up the results of the meeting.

The decree 'On Improving the Efficiency of the Healthcare System' became such a document.

Coordination of work on the implementation of the adopted decisions is entrusted to Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Igor Petrishenko. President's Aide Aleksandr Kosinets was instructed to take personal control over the accreditation of state healthcare organisations and analyse the effectiveness of medical universities. Control over the implementation of the instructions of the President will be carried out by the State Control Committee and the Prosecutor General's Office.

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, will convene a large meeting on healthcare in January 2024 (after the New Year and Christmas holidays).

Taking into account the instruction to restore order in the industry by January 1st and solve all the accumulated problems, the demand at the upcoming large-scale meeting will be from each item.

The press service of the Head of the Belarusian State emphasised, "As for the signed decree, the most serious control over the course of its implementation will be organised. The President draws attention to the fact that the shortcomings must be eliminated right now."

It was noted that very serious work should be organised without waiting for December.



New areas of co-operation

The President of Belarus met with the Governor of Russia's Kaliningrad Region Anton Alikhanov

The Head of State warmly welcomed the delegation of the region. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that many representatives of the Belarusian government had been invited to participate in the meeting, which showed the significance of the visit and the great interest of Belarus in the development of co-operation.

According to the President, it is an important fact that Anton Alikhanov is visiting Belarus for the third time, nevertheless, the parties have much to discuss and plan for the future.

The Head of State stressed that Belarus and Kaliningrad Region had long standing, even ancient relations in all the areas including economy, transit, culture, science, education and family ties.

"I am confident that this visit will be another milestone in consolidating our achievements in all the areas I have just mentioned and further expanding of long-

term co-operation. I am sure you will agree with me that the unprecedented attempt made by the West in 2022 to limit our communication with you, the free movement of goods by rail and road transport both from Russia and Belarus — this attempt was doomed to failure. No matter how hard they try to divide us with artificial barriers, it will not work," the Belarusian leader said.

Moreover, it is dangerous for the party that puts forward such initiatives, Aleksandr Lukashenko believes. Because in this way an economic war (and not only economic) is unleashed, which hot heads in the West have been trying to declare to Belarus and Russia not for the first time.

"Let them not feel offended later then. We do not threaten anyone. We just protect our interests — those of Belarus and Russia. It is quite difficult, but some-

how we still manage to tolerate all these somersaults. But it simply cannot go on and on. Therefore, the authorities of the Baltic States, and probably of Poland, should understand it very well," the President noted.

According to the Head of State, Belarus and Kaliningrad Region are overcoming all the difficulties, including thanks to the accumulated potential in the industrial sector, industrial co-operation, agriculture and the humanitarian sector.

"We can make greater progress. We have plenty of opportunities. We are close to \$500 million in trade. This is not a bad figure. We can do more, however," Aleksandr Lukashenko is sure.

As part of new infrastructure projects Belarusian companies are ready to participate in the procurement orders for trucks, agricultural, road, municipal and construction machinery, the President said. "We can offer high-tech ma-



Anton Alikhanov

chines and components. In short, we are open for you to explore our possibilities and suggest further ways of co-operation," the Belarusian leader continued.

There is potential to supply Belarusian public transport, attract Belarusian builders to construct new facilities in the Russian region.

Belarus is ready to increase the supply of food products, which have already proven their worth in the Russian market and are known under the brand *Zroblena u Belarusi* [Made in Belarus].

"Recently, however, we have faced with numerous attempt to counterfeit this brand. This means we will have to work with this issue as well," the Head of State emphasised and outlined the opportunities of the country in what concerns agro- and ecotourism.

Anton Alikhanov noted that the Kaliningrad delegation began its visit to Minsk with laying flowers at the Victory Monument.

"This is a symbol of our common memory of the feat of our fraternal peoples in the fight against Nazism during the Great Patriotic War. Most recently, on May 9th, you, together with our President Vladimir Putin, celebrated Victory Day on Red Square in Moscow. It is very important for us to remember and honour our common history, especially today," the governor emphasised, addressing Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



Chronicle of our time

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

“Accessibility is number one issue! This museum is not for me — I can tell a lot about our modern history. The museum should be for those who do not know all this. Therefore, there should be maximum openness.”

During the grand opening of the Museum of Modern Belarusian Statehood on June 22nd, 2012

The Museum of Modern Belarusian Statehood not only takes us to the past, but also makes us think about the present

Statehood is the most important value and testifies to the nation’s ability to develop independently — the President of Belarus is convinced of this, and this point of view has found a warm resonance in the hearts of Belarusians. Belarusian statehood has its own history and foundations, as well as unique and unshakable symbols, institutions and traditions. The Belarusian Statehood project of *The MT* tells about the main ones.



HERITAGE



‘Smart’ museum

The Museum of Modern Belarusian Statehood is part of the National Historical Museum of the Republic of Belarus, and is considered one of the important information, presentation and communication centres of Belarus.

The uniqueness of the exposition is the wide use of multimedia technologies: touch kiosks, ‘smart light’ systems, an electronic review book, multimedia control tablets and others. For example, when a guide speaks, only the exhibit in question is highlighted. Thus, the attention of visitors is not scattered.

The main leitmotif of the museum exposition is the achievements of the country during the years of state independence, international recognition of the national identity of the Belarusian people and the sovereignty of the Belarusian state.

The exposition is located in six halls and covers the period of modern history of Belarus from 1990 to the present day. The leading place in the exposition is given to the processes of formation of the presidential republic, constitutional reforms, the establishment of state symbols, the functioning of government bodies, as well as the achievements of our country in the socio-economic, cultural, sports, scientific and other areas.

For the creators of the museum, it was important to emphasise the connection with the thousand-year history of the Belarusian nation. That is why in the introductory hall, in a place of honour, you can see the coat of arms of ancient Polotsk — the city from which we count the Belarusian statehood.

Beautifully executed models of architectural monuments that have been built or reconstructed over the past decades flaunt here — from the Mir and Nesvizh Castles to the National Library and the All Saints memorial church in Minsk.

The first hall of the main exposition is dedicated to the state structure of the Republic of Belarus. Within its walls one can get acquainted with documents and video materials from the period of the formation of modern Belarusian statehood, as well as with presidential and state symbols, banknotes and coins of the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus, state awards and Heroes of Belarus.

The museum has many originals of various documents of the highest level. For example, there is the text of the oath and the certificate of the President of the sample of 2010.

Another exhibit is the Decree on the Transfer of the Celebration of Independence Day from July 27th to July 3rd, according to the results of the 1996 referendum. There are decrees that approve the current state symbols — the State Flag, the State Emblem, and the State Anthem.

The original podium, which is used during the presidential inauguration ceremony is the most photographed item in the museum. It exists in a single copy, but is not stored behind glass. Pictures with it are allowed.



People first

The Belarusian state is first of all people. It is their talents, labour achievements, feats in the name of saving others that underlie the reputation of our country. Here is the medal of the Hero of Belarus — the highest award bestowed to 13 people. The first was military pilot Vladimir Karvat, who, at the cost of his life, took the falling plane away from the village. Here, the Order of the Mother is the most frequently presented state award, and the Order of Friendship of Peoples is the only one that foreigners can receive.

The second hall reflects the socio-economic development of Belarus. Its exposition acquaints visitors with the activities of the National Academy of Sciences, the achievements of the Belarusian chemical and petrochemical industry, mechanical engineering, agriculture, and medicine.

Among all the exhibits, however, there are more than 300 of them in the hall, one can see the model of the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant.

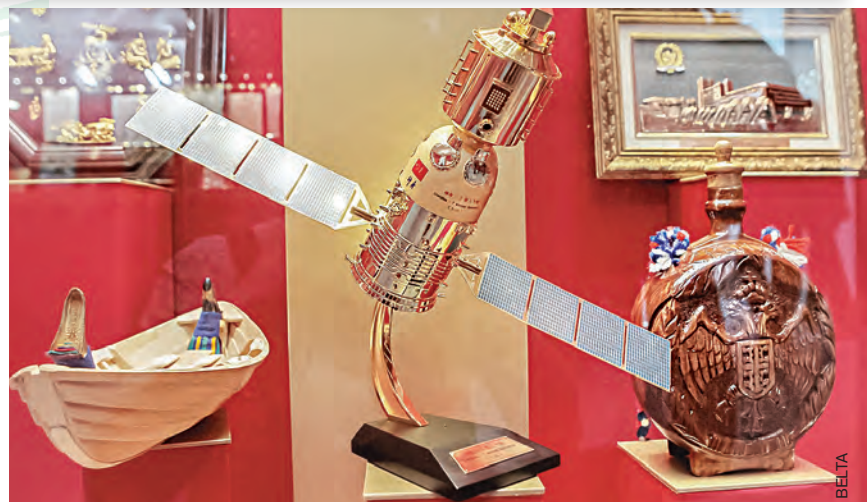
Our country is among the top five world leaders in the export of potash fertilisers. But few of the citizens saw how these same fertilisers look. Minerals are neatly laid out in small transparent boxes on display.

There are even jewels in the showcases — emeralds, alexandrites and sapphires, which are grown in the laboratories of the Academy of Sciences. It is noteworthy that they arouse interest not only among domestic jewellers, but also among the world’s largest brands in the field of jewellery.

But no stones can be more precious than human health. A separate stand was dedicated to the golden hands of scientists and doctors. It was our specialists who were the first in the CIS to introduce an artificial heart valve in 1991. Among the advanced developments in medicine are a prosthesis for the treatment of diseases of the circulatory system, implants for fixing the spine. Here they are shown in full size and impress even those who are far from science.

The third hall tells about the development of culture and sports in the country. Here are the awards of cultural and art workers, models of cultural and sports facilities, Olympic awards of Belarusian athletes.

Walking through the halls of the museum, one can see the space suits of Oleg Novitsky, and the first Olympic medal won for Belarus by biathlete Alexander Popov in Albertville in 1992, and the award of Ksenia Sitnik, taken at the Junior Eurovision Song Contest in 2005.



HIGHLIGHTS

- On June 22nd, 2012, Aleksandr Lukashenko got acquainted with the exposition during the grand opening of the museum, while unexpectedly, in fact, he personally led a tour, talking about the main stages of the country’s formation, its agriculture, industry, recalling the bright moments of those years and sharing personal experiences.
- On June 22nd, 2023, the museum will turn 11.
- About 800 museum items are exhibited in the permanent exhibition and about 4000 more are kept in the funds.
- The funds of the Museum of Modern Belarusian Statehood are replenished regularly. Moreover, the visitors themselves often help in this.

A gift is appreciated by the attention paid

The fourth hall introduces the ethno-confessional situation in the country, as well as various aspects of the foreign policy of Belarus. Among the museum exhibits of this hall are numerous gifts to Belarus, the President and the people from certain politicians, organisations and governments from abroad.

However, among all this magnificence, one of the most unusual exhibits can be seen — a model of the Victoria frigate. It is impressive both in detail and scale. It is among the most expensive gifts from high people. But it was built by a seventh-grader of the Rudnya secondary school in the Mozyr District, Grigory Sliva. The enthusiastic boy handed it to Aleksandr Lukashenko in 2012 during his working trip to Polesie.

The museum also houses a conference hall, which is designed for temporary exhibitions, interactive and patriotic events, as well as for negotiations of foreign delegations. It has already become a tradition to hold a solemn presentation of passports to young citizens of the country by the Constitution Day of the Republic of Belarus.



Not by number, but by skill

A couple of weeks ago, the former Deputy Minister of National Defence of Poland, Waldemar Skrzypczak, burst out with a number of revelations about Warsaw's plans for Minsk on the air of the Polsat TV channel. Of course, one could write off what was said to the fact that the retired general overheated in the sun, but the current May turned out to be not too hot. Therefore, the statements of the former high-ranking military man should be considered both without raising unnecessary alarm and without undue frivolity. And Skrzypczak gave the following: allegedly, an armed coup is being prepared in Belarus, and Poland is going to support it with military force. "We are preparing for an uprising in Belarus, because it will happen," the ex-general declared without hesitation, having clearly tried on the laurels of the bandit Pilsudski.



Why military security in the modern world comes to the fore and what is said about this aspect in the National Security Concept project

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,
"We must clearly and openly declare our priorities, we must show the world the transparency of our policy, the reliability of Belarus as a responsible partner. But our partners must also know that Belarusian peacefulness is not synonymous to willingness to sacrifice. As I have said more than once, in the event of any aggression, the response will be fast, tough and adequate."

During the Security Council meeting on February 20th, 2023

"Military spending has been increased, and the process of purchasing weapons and military equipment is underway. And they buy it not only in the United States, Germany, but also in South Korea. We are talking about hundreds and thousands of pieces of equipment. But why does Poland need 500 HIMARS launchers?"

There is no such need for the armed forces of Poland, for the five divisions that it forms."

Andrei Chernobai assumes that a base for storing weapons will be located in our neighbouring country in order to transfer them to the armed forces of other countries if necessary. For example, the United States, which has already opened a permanent military base in Powidze in Poland. He also recalls that Lithuania recently announced its intention to form a full-fledged NATO division.

FACT

Vilnius will host a NATO summit from July 11th to July 12th. Germany will deploy the Patriot anti-aircraft missile system in Lithuania to ensure its security. As analyst Andrei Chernobai said, new NATO plans for the Baltic region will be considered during the summit, "The United States and certain European states are talking about the need to completely abandon the Russia-NATO Founding Act of 1997, which means lifting restrictions on the permanent deployment of permanent troops in Eastern Europe. This is a serious risk."

in Ukraine and Poland, "Nobody hides that they are being prepared in the future after Ukraine for operations on the territory of our country. This is a new challenge that we are facing and should be taken very seriously."

Whether the world needs peace

As long as the basic needs of hundreds of millions of people around the world remain unmet, the planet continues to militarise. Global military spending hit a record \$2.24 trillion in 2022, according to new data released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. This is 3.7 percent more than in 2021, including the sharpest increase among European countries since the end of the Cold War more than 30 years ago. The United States spends the most on military spending in the world. As the Massachusetts National Priorities Project researchers found, for every dollar given to the United States on diplomacy and humanitarian aid, there are \$16 spent on the armed forces and war.

By Svetlana Isaenok

Diplomatic masks are off

Military analyst with the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research (BISR) Andrei Chernobai is sure that the need to

develop a new draft of the Concept is connected to a greater extent with changes in security in the military sphere. "In the military sphere, everything has changed a lot over the past 20–30 years. Risks and challenges have become more significant. And the brightest thing is a special military operation in Ukraine, which threatens to go beyond the borders of Ukraine. Belarus is also being drawn into the conflict..."

The militarisation of the Eastern European region is another important aspect. The analyst recalls that Poland has set itself the task of having the strongest armed forces in Europe,



DIRECT SPEECH

Aleksandr Volfovich, State Secretary of the Belarusian Security Council,

"In order to ensure peace and security, it is necessary first of all to maintain the combat readiness of all forces and means of the national security system, all structures of the state's military organisation. The defence of the country has a nationwide character in Belarus. Territorial defence is an important component of military security."

The main national interests in the military aspect are:

- ensuring military security and armed protection of Belarus in any conditions of the military-political situation;
- development and strengthening of collective security with allied states for Belarus;
- formation of a new, stable architecture of international security, restoration of mutual trust and transparency of international relations.

The main internal sources of military threats are:

- terrorist activities of criminal organisations and illegal armed formations on the territory of Belarus, pursuing the goals of destabilising public order and provoking an internal armed conflict;
- weakening of a sense of patriotism, the readiness of citizens of Belarus for the armed defence of the Fatherland in society;
- reducing the ability of the structural components of the military organisation of the state to solve the problems of peacetime and wartime as a result of criminal actions (inaction) of individual citizens of Belarus

- (treason to the state, sabotage, etc.);
- dissemination in the Belarusian society of the ideas of civil confrontation, leading to an armed rebellion;
- inability to provide at the level of defence sufficiency the needs of the military organisation of the state in armaments, military and special equipment, stocks of materiel.



The main external sources of military threats are:

- armed provocations from the territory of foreign states on the state border and in its border area;
- pursuance by states, interstate military-political associations of a hostile military policy towards our country, their demonstration of their desire to resolve existing contradictions through the use of

- military force;
- calls for the use of military force or financing of preparations for its use against Belarus by international organisations (including non-governmental ones), radical religious movements, anti-Belarusian centres abroad;
- creation of non-state armed formations abroad to carry out military activities on the territory of Belarus;
- reducing the potential and capabilities of interstate military-political associations with the participation of Belarus to ensure collective security;
- the emergence and escalation of hotbeds of armed conflicts in the territories of states adjacent to Belarus, as well as states that are members of military-political associations with the participation of our country;
- the destruction of the international architecture of military security, the pursuit of expansion policies by military-political alliances that do not include Belarus in order to disrupt the



existing strategic balance of power, the involvement of third states in their sphere of influence without granting them membership, including for waging agent's wars (proxy wars);

- the desire of individual states, including those in the European region, to possess or deploy on their territory weapons of mass destruction, long-range strategic weapons in non-nuclear design, the dissemination of their components and production technologies;
- the unleashing of an arms race and the militarisation of the states adjacent to Belarus, leading to the strengthening of their strike and offensive capabilities.



Technology dictates progress

Alcopack, a resident company of the Gomel-Raton free economic zone, supplies the domestic market and the flagships of the food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries of 15 countries with products

The construction of the first stage of a modern high-tech complex for the production of medical products by Alcopack is scheduled to be completed this month. The production area, with a total area of almost 10,000 square metres, is unique not only for Belarus, but for the entire EAEU market. With the commissioning of a new facility, the product portfolio of the company, which is a resident of the free economic zone Gomel-Raton, will be replenished with a number of innovative positions.

By Marina Severyanova

Innovation from skill sets and experience

The company is better known as a manufacturer of beverage closures. However, over a quarter of a century of work, a number of complex competencies have been mastered here — hot runner casting, metalworking, polymer extrusion. And it was decided to use the experience gained in a related industry. First, the company began to develop a cosmetic direction, then a more complex one — a medical one. Its Deputy CEO Aleksei Firer explains, “About ten types of innovative products are produced at the site for the production of medical devices, which have no analogues either within the country or on the territory of the Eurasian Economic Union: two-port caps for medical vials, capillary systems for blood sampling, nasal actuators. The company has more than 150 titles of protection and patented inventions, this process is now going through a number of products. Every year the company replenishes its range with new developments.”

The company provides products to the domestic market and the flagships of the food, cos-

metic and pharmaceutical industries in 15 countries, including Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia,

Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.

“The first workshop for the production of medical devices was launched in 2018. The ex-

About ten types of innovative products are produced at the site for the production of medical devices, which have no analogues either within the country or on the territory of the Eurasian Economic Union

Five years ago, the company mastered the production of medical products

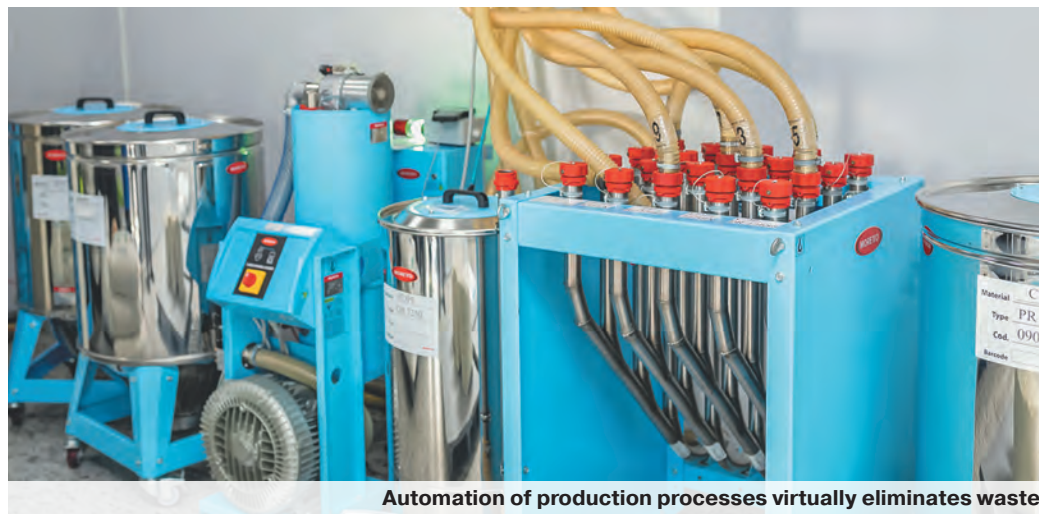
Every year the assortment is replenished with new developments

perience turned out

to be successful, we decided to scale up this area, so in 2022 the company began construction of a full-fledged production building. The total area of the designed facility is 9784 square metres, with only clean rooms — 4000 square metres. It corresponds to purity classes C and D. The object is unique — none of the EAEU countries has anything like this in terms of scale or level of manufacturability. The construction will take place in several stages



The operation of equipment and people can only be observed through the glass



Automation of production processes virtually eliminates waste

Ivan Yarinovich



The company focuses on the production of innovative products

The area of the workshop is more than 2000 square metres, almost a third belongs to the purity class D and C, that is, the air here changes at least 25 and 40 times per hour, respectively, it is practically sterile. We can observe the operation of equipment and people only through the glass.

“We are in the raw material loading room. The raw material itself is not visible, again to reduce contact with people. Its supply is carried out centrally — it is formed in storage tanks and fed to injection moulding machines through multi-channel systems. They, in turn, form blanks for medical products using the hot runner casting method. In a clean room there should be no excess air currents. There is one loader here, which inflates the vacuum, due to which the material is sucked in. That is, there is no excess air in a clean room,” process engineer Sergei Pupkov says.

High requirements are not only for the hygiene of employees, but also for microbiological and chemical purity.

Next, we oversee the production of closures for infusion solutions. Caps for vials produced by hot runner casting are poured onto the conveyor, then they enter the bunker.

Elena Ostasheva is an accountant at the plastics processing shop, she has been working at the enterprise for almost 20 years, “Pay attention to the line for the production of bags for infusion solutions — this is not only import-substituting, but also innovative products that are supplied to two pharmaceutical enterprises in Belarus. The bags are made from a multilayer polyolefin film, to which a tube is welded and, after pouring the infusion solution, an injection port is installed on it. Packages are the newest type of product in this workshop; their production at the enterprise was mastered a year ago. Analogues are not produced in Belarus.”

— in June we must commission the first stage,” Aleksei Firer recalls.

The new facility will produce high-demand and high-tech products for the medical industry, including polymer bottles for syrups, suspensions and powders, measuring syringes with a nozzle on the bottle, multi-dose blister inhalers for asthmatics.

According to world standards

Automation of literally all production processes and high manufacturability of lines practically exclude any kind of defect. That is, the equipment itself checks the quality of products: for example, there is a line for checking medical vials for tightness, visual control of geometric parameters. It's like a spaceship — even people are dressed in spacesuit-like disposable medical coveralls.

Recreation has become dearer

In recent years, Belarusians have tasted all the delights of traveling around their country and thus gave a second life to this sector of the economy. As a result, we have more and more offers for a varied and high-quality holiday with a decent level of service. The number of people wishing to spend their holidays at home is also growing. Correspondents of *The MT* took a closer look at the most interesting and unusual routes, objects and services of domestic tourism.



By Anna Kurak,
Aleksandra Yankovich

Trial start

Summer has already begun, but you still don't have a clear plan how to spend it? No problem! This week, a large-scale tourism promotion Vandruï, Adchui, Natchniaisia [Travel. Feel. Encourage] is taking place. In a nutshell, hundreds of sanatoriums and hotels, farmsteads and wildlife preserves, museums and restaurants organised original open days for potential visitors. Somewhere they promise free tours, and somewhere — discounts on accommodation and meals. The goal of the project is to help Belarusians choose places for their future vacation and present the diversity of the potential of the tourism industry.

In recent years, the largest forest area in the country — Nalibokskaya Pushcha — has been carefully developed in the direction of ecological tourism. The employees of the reserve are ready to conduct tours along the Syabrynsky Crossroads eco-trail. Its length is only 960 metres, but it passes through three biotopes at once: forest, meadow and swamp. Nearby are the habitats of wild horses — tarpan horses. A nice bonus — during the tour you can look into the nursery for breeding the rarest breeds of black grouse.

In the future, you can look at long-term rafting in kayaks. They are organised on the territory of the forest by Belgosokhota

(the official tour operator of the Forestry Ministry).

“For this season, a number of rafting routes with intermediate and final stops along the Usa, Western Berezina, Isloch and Neman Rivers have already been developed. There are options for 3, 5 and 12 kilometres. Right now we are working on rafts on the Neman River on fences. The most important thing is that tours can be booked and paid for online,” the director of Belgosokhota Vadim Krutko emphasises.

Linen route

Every year, new tourist and excursion routes appear in Belarus. According to the Deputy Sport and Tourism Minister Oleg Andreichik, this year alone there were 211 more of them. And we are not only talking about the capital, regional centres and Mir s Nesvizh, which are favored by travellers.

Indeed, tourists will be able

to see Orsha in a new way during the Ad Kvetki da Ruchnika [From a Flower to a Towel] excursion. This is a successful case of industrial tourism. The route will be interesting for both adults and children, its author, a tourism instructor-methodologist of FSK Orsha Tatyana Vasilevskaya, “Orsha District is a linen region. We have created a thematic tour and start the excursion with a visit to the village of Ustye, where the Institute of Flax of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus is located. Specialists of the laboratories will tell about the selection of flax, the peculiarities of its cultivation and growth in our country.”

Next, the route leads to the Orsha Vocational Lyceum of Textile-Workers named after G.V. Semenov. Students will demonstrate models of clothing made from linen fabrics, show equipped workshops and samples of products they have made themselves.

“Then the visitors will see the Orsha Linen Mill. They will realise the path taken by linen before it turns into a soft fabric. The final point of the route is the House of Linen brand store, one of the largest in Belarus, where a wide range of linen products is presented,” Tatyana Vasilevskaya explains.

In the footsteps of the Romans

What about an unexpected perspective on ancient Polotsk. The head of the local branch of

the local history museum, Irina Vodneva, has developed a route that tells what mark the Romanov dynasty left in the history of the city, when and with what objectives Russian emperors visited Polotsk — from Peter the Great and Catherine the Great to the last members of the Romanov family.

“Representatives of princely and royal houses visited the city more than once. The tour is based on new material previously known only to a few scientists and researchers. The excursion is designed for one day, during which we will trace how Polotsk was connected with the Romanovs. For example, few people are aware that it was Nicholas II of Russia who approved the transfer of the relics of Saint Euphrosyne from the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra to the St. Euphrosyne Convent of Polotsk,” Irina Vodneva says.

‘Provincial Rome’ welcomes

The history teacher of the Mstislavl gymnasium Vladimir Strekhla created the ‘Mstislavl — Eternal and Young’ route.

“In fact, our city is an open-air museum. I jokingly call it provincial Rome. Why? Like Rome, Mstislavl is based on hills. There are only 7 of them in Rome, 6 in Mstislavl. With tourists, we will visit Castle Hill, where the remains of a wooden city of the 12th century are located. Here, by the way, one of the birch bark manuscripts was found. And from the towers of the castle there is a beautiful view of mod-

REFERENCE

The tourism industry is actively preparing for the 2nd CIS Games, which will be held in 20 sports in 11 cities of Belarus from August 5th to August 13th. The Director of the Tourism Department of the Sport and Tourism Ministry Irina Voronovich said that operators will create unique programmes for guests in each region. “We have been diligently preparing for the Games for a long time. These are not only sports competitions — it is interesting for fans to see the country, the city where the competitions are held. In order for tourists to see as much as possible, in each region there is a tour operator assigned to the event, who develops packages for one, three, four and eight days. This is done so that guests have the opportunity to attend sports events in different cities, visit cultural sites, and have an interesting and useful time. Excellent accommodation options are available in agricultural estates located near the cities where the Games will be held.” By the way, from July 3rd to August 31st, a visa-free entry procedure will be introduced, as well as an exemption from registration for participants and staff involved in the 2nd CIS Games. The reason for visa-free travel is the inclusion of athletes and other participants in the list of the accredited system of the Games.

ern Mstislavl. Our region is also a place for pilgrimage tourism. There are about a dozen temples in the city with a population of 10,000 people. One of the places of attraction for believers is the Holy Dormition Monastery in the village of Pustynki. Its main shrine is the man-made image of the Saviour Jesus Christ. I always say that only a pure soul can see it,” the teacher inspiringly shares his emotions.

In 2022, the record of 2019 was broken in the domestic tourism market

More than 1.5 million Belarusians travelled within the country as part of organised tours. This is 20,000 more than in 2019.



Last year, 4 million foreigners entered Belarus. More than 90 percent of the guests are Russians.

Export of tourist services amounted to \$180 million.



Over 20 types of tourism are developing in the country, with the main one being health-improving. About 6,000 foreigners are currently recuperating in sanatoriums.





Energy crisis in Europe killed more people than COVID-19

High energy prices are more than an inconvenience. They are deadly. A recent article from *The Economist* suggests that high energy prices in Europe were responsible for 68,000 premature deaths last winter, more than COVID-19.

High energy prices can cost lives because they discourage people from heating their homes properly, and living in cold conditions raises the risk of cardiac and respiratory problems. *The Economist* notes that they predicted expensive energy prices could result in between 22,000 and 138,000 premature deaths during a mild winter.

The Economist magazine study focused on the period from last November to February. Data was gathered from all 27 EU countries, with the exception of Malta and Cyprus. Britain, Norway and Switzerland were included.

Meanwhile, the latest figure relating to

EU financial support for Ukraine has just been released. Many struggling citizens will find it eye watering.

“If we tot up all the support, military, civilian, humanitarian, financial aid, refugee support, if we tot up all of that aid to Ukraine, the EU and its member states have provided €65 billion,” EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell noted.

The EU Commission admitted the core inflation rate in the Eurozone, which analysts say is directly linked to sanctions against Russia, remains stubbornly high.

“This hits people’s purchasing power, especially in lower and middle income groups, and hurts the competitiveness of

EU companies,” said EU Commissioner for Economy Valdis Dombrovskis.

The European Central Bank continues to increase interest rates to try and bring down inflation.

Europe actually got incredibly lucky last winter because it was the second-warmest winter on record for the continent. Had it been a cold winter, energy consumption, prices, and premature deaths likely would have been much higher.

It begs the question how many could die during the forthcoming winter if EU authorities fail to secure reasonably priced, reliable supplies, and if conditions turn out to be much colder?

‘Aliens are 100% living among us’

‘Aliens have been on Earth for a long time and are still here’: Stanford University Professor claims there are experts working on reverse engineering crashed UFOs — as recently reported by the *New York Post*

In a recent statement that has caught the attention of both sceptics and believers alike, Stanford University Professor and noted ‘UFOlogist’ Dr. Garry Nolan has claimed that extraterrestrial life is not just a possibility, but a certainty he places at ‘100 percent’, as he firmly believes aliens have visited our planet and have been living among us for a long time.

According to Dr. Nolan, who is a Professor of Pathology at Stanford’s Medical School, his belief in the existence of extraterrestrial life is supported by the fact that the US government has created an official office to deal with unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs), as well as a whistleblower programme that has attracted numerous individuals to share their experiences in classified settings.



Dr. Nolan’s fascinating claim was made during recent Salt iConnections conference in Manhattan, under a session titled *The Pentagon, Extraterrestrial Intelligence and Crashed UFOs*, wherein he also mentioned the infamous ‘Wow! Signal’ as evidence of the existence and communication of extraterrestrial intelligence.

Grand Canal turned green

Venice’s gondoliers could be seen punting through the phosphorescent waters while tourists took photographs of the green patch, from the Rialto Bridge up and along part of the canal

Some pointed the finger at climate activists Last Generation. They did turn Rome’s Trevi Fountain black, after all. But they told police they were not responsible.

But local authorities have now discovered that the liquid was fluorescein, a non-toxic substance used for testing wastewater networks.

Fluorescein is a manufactured organic dye used for scientific purposes. It is not ecologically harmful. Samples taken from the canal show that the water does not contain toxic chemicals.

The results ‘have not shown the presence of toxic elements in the samples an-

alysed’, the statement said. Where the dye came from and how it got into the canal in the first place is still a mystery.

As it turns out, it’s not the first time the canal has been green: in 1968, Argentine artist Nicolás García Urriburu put fluorescein in the water to bring attention to the relationship between nature and civilisation during the 34th Venice Biennale. The low tide made the dye gradually disappear over the course of one day.

The curious colouring comes as the city is celebrating the Vogalonga boat event, created to combat wave motion and to restore Venetian traditions.



Arctic Challenge 2023

NATO countries have kicked off arctic military exercise with a pledge to defend their newest member, Finland, which is hosting its first joint training since becoming part of the Western alliance in April

Nearly 1,000 allied forces from Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States — as well as NATO applicant Sweden — joined approximately 6,500 Finnish troops and some 1,000 vehicles for multinational exercise, which mark Finland’s biggest modern-time land-force drill above the Arctic Circle.

Some 150 aircraft from 14 NATO members and partner countries are also participating in Arctic Challenge 2023 multinational exercise, held from May

29th to June 9th, according to NATO Air Command. The ACE was launched in 2013 and is held every second year.

The exercise involves participants from the Netherlands, Belgium, the UK, Italy, Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, the Czech Republic and the US, and NATO with its AWACS aircraft.

In total, the drills are conducted from four bases: Ørland in Norway, Kallax in Sweden, as well as Rovaniemi and Pirkkala in Finland.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Hollywood finale

How 'Dream Factory' turned into a bubble



By Valentin Pepelyaev

Former glory

The old Hollywood of the 1970s and 1990s always upheld traditional family values. In almost every picture, the heroes strove for the family, for a cosy and large Christmas table, found their happiness in fatherhood and motherhood. In

Hollywood cinema, there was a real cult of the family.

Hollywood filmmakers, if they considered the topic of the collapse of the family and divorce, then plunged into it entirely, as if trying to warn the audience against the mistakes of the main characters, and the problems of the family and raising a child were investigated impartially and deeply.

So in the centre of the plot of the Oscar-winning drama *Kramer vs. Kramer* was the struggle of two spouses during the divorce proceedings for their little son. Serious ideological and artistic innovation of the drama by Robert Benton was that for almost the first time on the Hollywood screen they started talking about equality in the rights of fathers and mothers. In the finale, Joanna Kramer, played by Meryl Streep, having already won a custody case for her son Billy, nevertheless understands that it is better for him to live with his father. "I love Billy so much, I won't take him in," she says. The finale of this heartbreaking melodrama with Streep crying in the elevator door is one of the most memorable scenes in Hollywood cinema.

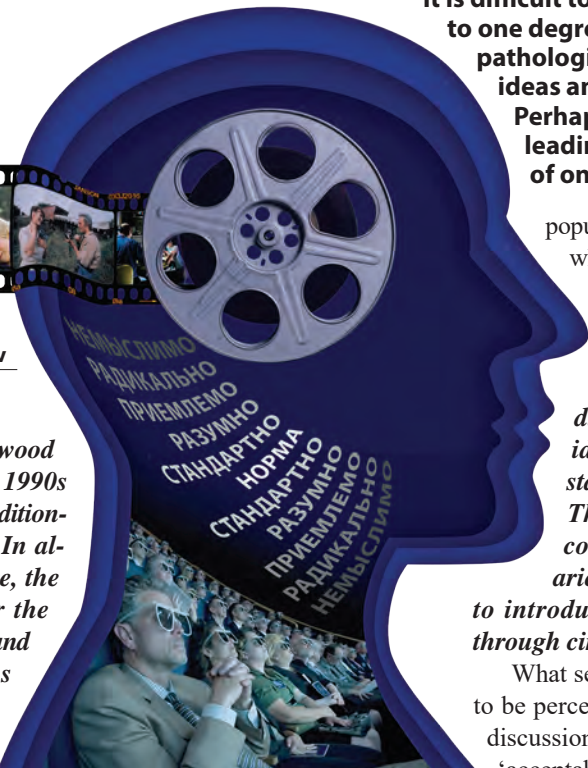
In general, humanism and love for a person were once the defining vector in Hollywood cinema.

The director Robert Redford innovatively approached the disclosure of the theme of family relationships in the *Ordinary People* drama based on the novel by Judith Guest. The film received four Academy Awards and five Golden Globe Awards (including Best Picture of the Year), as well as several nominations for other prestigious film awards.

Pathology has become the norm

Gradually, other themes and motives began to appear on the Hollywood screen, the presence of gay heroes, adherents of various pathologies, became the dominant plot. The resulting bias is fully consistent with the

The once respectable and alluring Hollywood has recently become a goldmine for jokes: it is difficult to find a film among the Oscar favourites that does not include LGBT motives to one degree or another, which would not explore the dark aspects of various human pathologies... 'Dream Factory', manipulating the public opinion and imposing false ideas and symbols on viewers around the world, has rapidly lost its former authority. Perhaps, we are witnessing a complete ideological and ethical collapse of the once leading film empire, a real 'Hollywood Ending'. It is symbolic that this was the name of one of the films of the classic film by Woody Allen.



popular concept of the Overton window, which received its name in honour of the American lawyer, vice president of the Mackinac Centre for Public Policy Joseph Overton.

As known, its essence is that due to the public discussion of any idea, it is possible to change its status in the public consciousness. This method of influencing public consciousness expands the boundaries of what is acceptable in order to introduce destructive ideas, including through cinema.

What seemed 'unthinkable' before, begins to be perceived as simply 'radical' after long discussions, and even later goes through the 'acceptable', 'reasonable' and 'standard' to the 'social norm' accepted by all. Many viewers at one time went cold with horror, seeing on the screen the cannibal Dr. Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Hannibal* and *Red Dragon* films. The ending of *Hannibal* was especially shocking, where the doctor cooked a roast from the brain of one of the heroes performed by Ray Liotta, removing the skull cap from him alive. Today, the main characters of the *Bones* and *All* film are a young couple who travel around the United States and hunt people to eat them. The film premiered at the Venice Film Festival.

Ironically, the real allegations of cannibalism markedly ruined the career of Hollywood actor Armie Hammer, Chalamet's co-star in Call Me By Your Name. How can one not remember the wise proverb: don't stir riot while it's quiet.

Bones and all

LGBT topics entered American cinema gradually, in order to flourish today. Of course, this direction has always existed, but did not go beyond its subculture, but over time won a place in the mainstream. Already in the popular film *American Beauty* by Sam Mendes, the hero of Chris Cooper — Colonel Frank Fitts had feelings for the main character played by Kevin Spacey. The creators of the *Brokeback Mountain* drama made a lot of noise and swung in general at the sacred image of cowboys in American culture. The short story of the same name by writer Annie Proulx was turned into 'the first gay western in the history of cinema' by director En Lee. There was so much fuss around the picture, which no one remembers today. In 2005, it received the main prize of the Venice Film Festival — Golden Lion, together with four awards from the British Academy BAFTA, three Oscars, but today it is safely forgotten.

Today, in order for a film to be approved by the cultural elite, it is necessary to introduce a politically correct and positive image of LGBT people into it, whose activists now measure, almost with stopwatches, how many minutes on the screen are given to LGBT characters. Without this, it is not easy for a film to win an Oscar, and this is a given of the freedom of filmmaking in the United States.

They already got to the cartoons

There are no norms for the American producers: their crazy ideas have already reached out to children's fairy tales. Disney's Beauty and the Beast released in theatres has been criticised for the presence of a gay character in the film.

The Warner Brothers cartoon *Storks* shows how storks bring babies not only to traditional families, but also to same-sex couples, male and female.

...Apparently, it is already too late to adopt the new Hayes Code, which appeared in the 1930s and was repealed only in 1967.

Freedom or recklessness

"LGBT topics, which have become prevalent in American cinema in recent years, aim to destroy family ties and the image of the traditional family. Everything is not presented head-on, in an easy and entertaining way, the pathology is discussed through the game. There is a beautiful conversation about the freedom of the individual and his rights, about the search for identification. This is sophistry that leads nowhere. There is a very terrible destruction of spirituality and morality, a true process of dehumanisation. At some stage, they decided to step over all the boundaries of what is acceptable. However, Europe in this process goes hand in hand with the USA. Thank God, we have a different genetic memory with the U.S. and the West. If they have a gene of conquest, destruction, superiority and enslavement firmly in their genetic memory, then creation, work, family values prevail in our genetic memory.

I am sure that it is impossible to make an anti-human movie that promotes the violation of the laws of nature, glorifies impunity, false success, the superiority of individualism. I am sure that sooner or later the Americans will punish themselves, the retribution for them will be very serious," considers the chairman of the Belarusian Union of Cinematographers, the famous actor Viktor Vasiliev.

It is hard not to agree with Viktor Vasiliev: today we are witnessing the decline not only of Europe, but also of the once glorious Hollywood.





Boy with a Rooster

He ran around with artists, had all possible awards and titles, brought up a whole generation of talented monumental painters, but at the same time, he always remained on his own, outside the framework and directions. Original, active, impetuous — Aleksandr Kishchenko did not know fatigue at all, did not know how to relax and seemed to be afraid of not having time to realise everything that he had planned. Painting, mosaics, tapestries — he was interested in absolutely everything. In addition, he was one of the few who managed to go beyond the exhibition halls and fit his works into urban landscapes. Coloured mosaic panels on high-rise buildings in the Vostok-1 microdistrict of the capital, the famous *Partisans* on the facade of the Tourist Hotel and the *Hymn to Labour* triptych on the ends of residential buildings in Novopolotsk — Kishchenko easily combined high art and national identity. This year, the People's Artist of Belarus could have turned 90 years old. The anniversary date, of course, was not missed by the National Art Museum.

By Yuliana Leonovich

Space as a premonition

Forty paintings and two tapestries — the Heaven and Earth exhibition of Aleksandr Kishchenko turned out to be moderately chamber, but at the same time revealing the artist as one of the most powerful figures of Russian art of the 20th century. At the same time, the creative biography of the master, who was born and raised in the Voronezh Region, is simultaneously connected with three countries: Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. The Belarusian (and the main, as it turned out) page of his life began with the filing of another future folk artist, Gavriil Vashchenko, who called an old institute friend from Kiev to Minsk to teach at the department of monumental and decorative painting at the theatre and art institute. A telegram from Kishchenko to his wife has been preserved: 'Urgently leave for Minsk with the son. We will live and work here. Telegraph me about the time of arrival'.

The curator of the exhibition, senior researcher at the department of Belarusian art of the 20th-21st centuries, Valentina Voitsekhovskaya, did not lay out the artist's life in strict chronological order by periods, but an attentive viewer, in general, does not need this. Valentina Voitsekhovskaya is sure that the most important thing is to capture the essence. Kishchenko took into his art what inspired him and corresponded to his own point of view. Even in his youth, he began to be fascinated by ancient philosophy, the idea of man's belonging to the space. He accepted the universe as an eternal and unified whole — this is how the style of the artist was formed, which he himself later defined as 'universal realism'.

Heaven and earth of Aleksandr Kishchenko

National Art Museum of Belarus hosts an exhibition dedicated to the anniversary of the People's Artist of Belarus



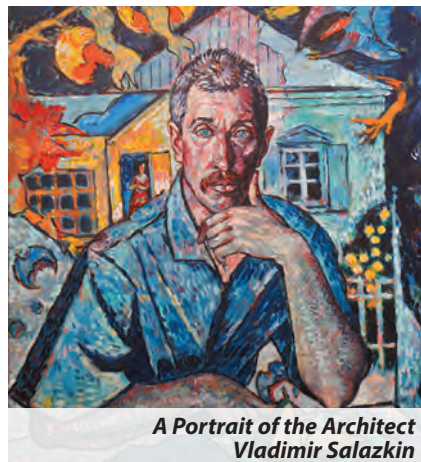
Self Portrait



Still Life with Green Pears



Valentina Voitsekhovskaya



A Portrait of the Architect Vladimir Salazkin

"Like all inquisitive great masters, Kishchenko studied the experience of world art: ancient Greek, ancient Egyptian, Renaissance, and this eventually led to a certain personal result. Aleksandr felt everything that happens on Earth as part of the Universe, outer space. Therefore, in all his works, hatches, arches extending into infinity, many references to the Cosmos are quite clearly visible — all these elements have become fundamental in his creativity," Valentina Voitsekhovskaya explains.

For the first time Kishchenko showed his works in Minsk in 1966 at the republican youth exhibition. Among them was *The Circus Boy* — a small canvas, which the artist's widow Nina Kukharenko kindly provided for an exhibition at the National Art Museum. In general, it is noteworthy that the exposition contains only four works from the museum fund. Everything else is from the collection of the artist's family.

"It was more interesting for us to show what has been kept in the family all these years. These paintings are not publicly

available; they were brought from the workshop especially for the exhibition. But after the end of the exhibition, three works will remain in the funds of the National Art Museum, such a gift to the museum was made by Nina Kukharenko," Valentina Voitsekhovskaya draws the attention.

Muses and tapestries

This, in particular, is *Still Life with Green Pears*, painted in mid-1960s. Not quite the early period of Kishchenko's work, but one of the oldest paintings in the exhibition. Perhaps only the *Portrait of a Woman* is older — the work of 1959, when the artist was still a student at the Lvov Institute of Applied and Decorative Arts. And here is the 'youngest' exhibit — a portrait of the architect Vladimir Salazkin. His artist finished shortly before his death in 1997.

"Many viewers have repeatedly noted that the heroes of Kishchenko's portraits do not look like themselves in real life, but at the same time they are very recognisable. This is due to his approach to models. Aleksandr Kishchenko believed that the artist should not carefully copy and transfer all the features to the canvas. You need to capture the essence, understand the person — and already build a portrait on this. Interpret, removing all unnecessary, secondary. Perhaps the result is too subjective, but this is the style of the artist," Valentina Voitsekhovskaya explains.

The artist also worked on a portrait of the People's Artist of the USSR Elena Obraztsova. A diva with a chic bouquet in her hands — this picture, of course, stands out among other works in the ex-

hibition. It is known that Kishchenko met the famous singer in Minsk when he was working on tapestries for the Opera and Ballet Theatre. Obraztsova was just on tour in the Belarusian capital at that time. And already on the first acquaintance, the artist invited the singer to the workshop to paint her portrait. Nevertheless, due to the excessive employment of the artist at that time, it did not work out. At the same time, a friendship began, Obraztsova invited Kishchenko to all her performances in Moscow and Leningrad. And in the late 1970s, having found some time, she came with her family to visit the artist in his small homeland in Boguchar. The result of that trip were two portraits. However, the main woman and Muse of the master is, of course, his wife Nina. He painted her a huge number of times, moreover, her features are guessed in every female portrait of the artist. Today Nina Kukharenko is the keeper of his vast heritage.

A special place in the creativity of Aleksandr Kishchenko was occupied by tapestry. It was with tapestries that the artist first of all became known outside of Belarus. The name of the master is associated with the revival of monumental artistic textiles as a new type of modern decorative art of Belarus in the last third of the 20th century — it is not for nothing that the name Kishchenko is now assigned to the Borisov Combine of Decorative and Applied Arts. Only two tapestries are presented at the exhibition — this art is fundamental, eternal, but rather difficult to exhibit. Here, in the showcases, you can see some documents and rare photographs provided by the Kishchenko family.

Among the documents presented at the exhibition, we can see a picture of the artist's father Maksim Yakovlevich. Once Aleksandr Kishchenko was given the wrong middle name in the documents — Mikhailovich, for many years he was going to correct the mistake, but did not have time. The artist named his youngest son Maksim in memory of his father who died like a hero in battle in 1943.



Connecting hearts

The third season of the Vytoki sports and cultural festival continues its march across Belarus — it was hosted by Baranovichi on June 2nd-3rd



By Gennady Poplavsky

According to an established tradition, the first day of the holiday was more educational and creative. Several thematic seminars were held for sports specialists, and a children's art interactive and a performance by the Gorky National Academic Drama Theatre were presented to the attention of the townspeople.

The beginning of the second day of the festival was given by an athletics race, which was attended by almost 500 boys and girls up to nine years old. The Olympic champion in kayaking and canoeing Aliaksandr Bahdanovich gave the guys instruction to start. After that, the solemn opening ceremony of the festival was held on Lenina Square with the participation of the President of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Belarus Viktor Lukashenko. Addressing the audience, he emphasised that *Vytoki* is a holiday that brings together many people and is done by common efforts, "We are making this holiday together! So let's have a good time. And maybe one of your children, participating in these locations, will find their favourite sport and devote their whole life to it, go to professional sports and one day we will see it on world sports arenas."



The organizers of the *Vytoki* festival are the National Olympic Committee of Belarus, the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus, the ArtHaos and BelBrandAudit companies

In conclusion, Viktor Lukashenko traditionally handed a cash certificate to the Chairman of the Baranovichi City Executive Committee Mikhail Batsenko for Br100,000, which will be spent on the development of sports in the city.

After the opening ceremony, one of the most anticipated activities of the holiday began — the Olympic quest. Any child under the age of 14 could test their strength in various sports, complete tasks and receive valuable prizes. The choice of competitions was varied: karate and taekwondo, biathlon, hockey, tennis, football, mini-golf, boxing — and many other sports. Those of the guys who went

through 15 locations received a prize — wireless headphones. According to the organisers, they were handed over to almost 5,500 winners of the Olympic quest, which eloquently speaks of the scale of the holiday.

Also, a new interesting location was presented at *Vytoki* in Baranovichi — Games of our Yard, in which there were five stages — 'jump rope', 'hopscotch', 'hot potato', shooting from a slingshot and others. In parallel with sports, a number of creative competitions were held, trading floors with products of Belarusian manufacturers and catering facilities were open.

In general, each participant of the festival could find an interesting location on it. Residents and guests of the city, especially children, did not hide their delight from the holiday. So, the spouses Nikolai and Alena Artyukh, with their children Ivan, Rostislav and Miroslava, specially came to *Vytoki* from Novogrudok and were very impressed.

"This is the second *Vytoki* for us. Last year the festival was held in our hometown, and we were very excited about it. So we decided to re-experience these emotions. And we were right — we had a great rest and got a lot of positive emotions!" the head of the family says.

Alena continued after her husband, "I believe that *Vytoki* should be held as often as possible and capture more corners of our Belarus. It is clearly seen how the festival is growing and developing, many new venues and prizes have been added. All this was appreciated by the children. They participated in almost every sport that was on the grounds and received cool prizes."

Together, two friends Yegor Ivashko and Yegor Levy from gymnasium No. 5 in Baranovichi also came to the competition.

"*Vytoki* is great! We took part in the Olympic race. I became the fourth, and Yegor — the sixth. Of course, for this I had to give my all!" Yegor Levy is sure.

"We also liked the boxing area. Therefore, we firmly decided: in September we will definitely sign up for the boxing section!" the second Yegor follows his friend.

Vytoki in Baranovichi ended with a bright gala concert and colourful fireworks. Slonim will take over the next festival from June 16th to June 17th, and then Glubokoye (from June 23rd to June 24th), Kostyukovich (from August 18th to August 19th) and Borisov (from August 25th to August 26th).



Photo of the week



Dar'ya Titova

Tea for Harmony in the World event as part of Chinese Culture Day in Minsk

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



June 8th is World Oceans Day. The holiday was created in order to protect the rights of the inhabitants of the deep sea and a stable

ecological situation. Up to 40 percent of the world's oceans are considered 'heavily affected' by human activities, including pollution, depletion of fish stocks and loss of coastal habitats.

On June 8th, 1909,

the first mass-produced Russian-made car Russo-Balt was released. It was a graceful two-seat grey car with a 24-horsepower 4-cylinder engine. Russo-Balts were assembled from components and parts of foreign and Russian production. The cars were in steady demand, gained a reputation as reliable and hardy cars and performed well in both Russian and international auto racing.



June 9th is International Friends Day. All peoples at all times have revered friendship as the greatest social and moral value.

The holiday was founded precisely so that each person can remind his or her friends about how important they are to him or her, in order to please them.



On June 9th, 1945, the medal 'For the Capture of Berlin' was established in honour of the capture of Berlin during the Great Patriotic War, which became perhaps the most joyful of all Soviet awards in the USSR. Since it came a kind of symbol of the end of a terrible war and victory over fascism in the USSR.

On June 10th, 1936, Soyuzmultfilm, the largest animation film studio in the USSR, was founded in Moscow. During the existence of the studio, more than one and a half thousand cartoons have been created in a variety of genres and artistic techniques, many of which have become part of the 'golden fund' of world animation classics and received more than four hundred international festival prizes and awards.



On June 10th, 1983, Cherikov Historical and Regional Studies Museum was founded. The most interesting exhibits from the archaeological monuments of the area are the tooth and wool of a mammoth, an iron ax of the 16th century, icons of the late 18th – early 19th century, and the Peasant's Hut exposition with household items.



June 12th is World Day Against Child Labour. Its purpose is to draw attention to this problem and the need for measures to eliminate it. According to the latest data, the number of working children in the world, aged 5 to 17, is 160 million, with more than one hundred million victims of modern slavery, and 79 million of them in hazardous work.

June 12th is public holiday of the Russian Federation — Russia Day. On June 12th, 1990, the Declaration on State Sovereignty of the Russian Federation was adopted at the First Congress of People's Deputies of the RSFSR. Today, the Russia Day is increasingly acquiring patriotic features and is becoming a symbol of the national unity of the people of Russia and the common responsibility for the present and future of the country.



June 13th is Sewing Machine Day — the holiday is unofficial, but celebrated by experts, and inextricably linked with the history of the appearance of this invention, which became part of the industrial revolution and made it possible to make a revolution not only in the field of light industry, but also in the life of most housewives.

On June 14th, 1938, Pavel Mariev, a Belarusian scientist and organiser of production in the field of automotive industry, Doctor of Technical Sciences, Honoured Worker of Industry of Belarus, Hero of Belarus, was born. He is the honorary citizen of Zhodino. He developed and implemented in serial production a new concept of increasing the structural equal strength of large-sized parts and welded structures of mining dump trucks of large and extra-large payloads. Furthermore, he is the laureate of the State Prize of Belarus.



June 14th is World Blood Donor Day. It has been celebrated since 2004 on the birthday of Karl Landsteiner (1868-1943), an Austrian physician and immunologist, Nobel laureate, who discovered blood types in humans. The transfusion of blood and blood products saves millions of lives each year.



On June 15th, 1978, the second space flight of the Belarusian cosmonaut Vladimir Kovalyonok took place as a ship commander on the Salyut 6 orbital complex — the longest at that time (140 days). During the flight, the crew conducted over 50 experiments, made a large collection of photographs of the Earth's surface and took two expeditions under the Interkosmos programme.